

CLAIMS

1. A dried emulsion comprising a matrix comprising a water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer and having
5 dispersed therein a liquid hydrophobic phase, characterized in that:
 - the water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer comprised in the matrix comprises a water-soluble or water-dispersible block copolymer comprising one or more
10 hydrophilic blocks A and one or more hydrophilic blocks B, said copolymer being alone or in a mixture with another water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer,
 - the weight ratio between the hydrophobic phase and the matrix is greater than 50/50, preferably greater than
15 70/30, preferably greater than 80/20, and
 - the matrix comprises at least 50% by weight of water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer.
2. The dried emulsion of the preceding claim,
20 characterized in that it further comprises an emulsifier compound.
3. The dried emulsion of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the matrix comprises at least 80%
25 by weight of water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer.
4. The dried emulsion of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the matrix comprises not more than 20%, preferably not more than 10%, by weight of a salt.
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5. The dried emulsion of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the hydrophobic phase comprises a compound selected from:
 - silicones,
 - 35 - fragrances,

- organic, mineral or vegetable or mineral oils, and derivatives of these oils, said oils and derivatives being non-water-miscible,

- non-water-miscible organic solvents,

5 - non-water-soluble or -dispersible active substances,

- mixtures thereof, as solutions, dispersions or emulsions.

10 6. The dried emulsion of the preceding claim, characterized in that the hydrophobic phase is a composition comprising a non-water-miscible intermediate phase having dispersed therein an internal phase which is not miscible or not soluble in the intermediate phase.

15 7. The dried emulsion of one the preceding claims, characterized in that the weight ratio between the block(s) A and the block(s) B is greater than or equal to 50/50.

20 8. The dried emulsion of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer is an A-B diblock copolymer or A-B-A triblock copolymer wherein the block A is hydrophilic and the block B is hydrophobic.

25 9. The dried emulsion of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that at least one block, preferably at least two, derives from ethylenically unsaturated monomers, preferably mono-alpha-ethylenically unsaturated
30 monomers.

10. A process for preparing a dried emulsion of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

35 a) preparing an emulsion comprising an aqueous phase

having dispersed therein the liquid hydrophobic phase in dispersion in water, the emulsion comprising the water-soluble or water-dispersible copolymer the matrix alone or in a mixture with another water-soluble or water-dispersible polymer, and optionally, further, an emulsifier compound, and

5 b) removing the water to give a dried emulsion,

c) optionally converting the dried emulsion into powder or granules,

10 d) recovering the dried emulsion.

11. The process of claim 10, characterized in that in step b) the water is removed by thin-film evaporation, lyophilization, or by spray-drying the emulsion.

15 12. The process of one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the proportion by weight between the aqueous phase and the hydrophobic phase is between 5% and 99% and in that the water comprises less than

20 0.5 mol/L of salt.

13. The use of a dried emulsion of one of claims 1 to 9 in crop protection formulations, in laundrycare formulations, in dishwashing formulations, in cosmetic

25 formulations, in household or skincare or babycare wipes, in diaper pants, in building-material and/or civil-engineering formulations or in surface-coating formulations, such as in paints, for example.